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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

26 February 1960

DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

USSR-India-China: Nehru's announcement that he will meet Khrushchev in Calcutta on 1 March for further talks suggests that the Soviet leader continues to be interested in bringing the Indian and Chinese governments together to solve their border dispute. [Khrushchev reportedly devoted about half of his recent talk with Nehru to the border question. He was extremely pleased when Nehru informed him that he had already invited Chou En-lai to a meeting, and assured Nehru that Chou was eager to meet with him.] (Page 1)

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

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British Somaliland - Ethiopia: [The recent landslide election victory in British Somaliland of the UAR-supported nationalists, who are expected to demand immediate independence, is a setback to London's plans for the political evolution of the protectorate. The intent of the nationalists to negotiate an early unification with Somalia--the Italian-administered trust territory which is to become independent on 1 July--will further embitter Ethiopia. Addis Ababa is extremely sensitive over Somali claims to large areas of Ethiopia and probably will accuse London of conspiring with Somali nationalists to establish a "Greater Somalia" state in the Commonwealth.] [redacted] (Page 4) (Map)

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Ceylon: The Ceylonese national elections to be held on 19 March seem at present unlikely to lead to the formation of a strong, stable government. Some 20 recognized parties and nearly 900 candidates are competing for 151 elective Parliament seats, no campaign issue has yet captured the popular imagination, and the prospects are for a widely split vote. The moderate United National party is generally favored to win the most seats but is likely to obtain only a plurality; this probably would result in a coalition government. [redacted]

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III. THE WEST

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DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

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Khrushchev's Present Role in Sino-Indian Border Dispute

[Nehru's announcement that he will meet with Khrushchev in Calcutta on 1 March for further talks suggests that Khrushchev continues to be interested in bringing the Indian and Chinese Communist governments together to solve their border dispute. Khrushchev reportedly devoted about half of his recent talk with Nehru to the border question, emphasizing that China had not committed aggression on Indian territory but admitting that he did not like the way the Chinese have behaved on the issue.]

[Khrushchev noted that Ladakh was essentially a "no man's land," and that the incident there could not be blamed on either side. He was said to be extremely pleased when he was informed by Nehru that the latter had already invited Chou En-lai to a meeting, and he assured Nehru that Chou was eager to meet with him. Khrushchev allegedly suggested that if Chou were unwilling to come to New Delhi for talks, the two premiers could meet in Moscow.]

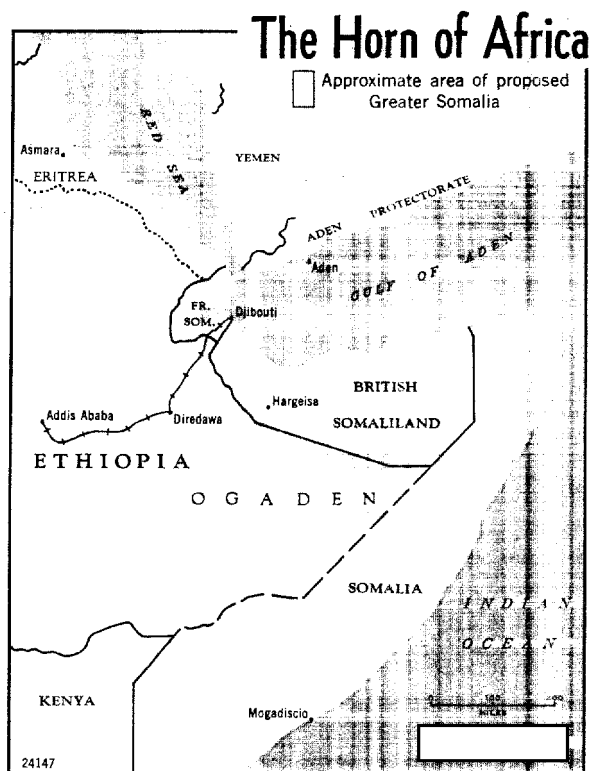
[Nehru reportedly parried this suggestion, hinting that Moscow would be acceptable if China would agree to at least some Indian "preconditions." Nehru reportedly told President Prasad later that he did not expect Chou to accept his invitation to New Delhi, in view of the firm stand on border questions taken in the Indian note of 12 February. The Chinese probably would prefer a meeting on neutral Asian ground rather than in New Delhi, where public reaction would be hostile, or in Moscow, where Chinese prestige would suffer.]

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British Somaliland to Demand Immediate Independence

[The recent landslide victory of the UAR-supported nationalists in British Somaliland is a setback to London's plans for an orderly political evolution of its Somaliland protectorate. London had planned to offer the winning party four of seven ministerial portfolios immediately and to yield governmental responsibility gradually over a period of several years as local leaders learn the ropes. The nationalists, however, encouraged by their success in winning 32 of 33 seats in the Legislative Council, are expected to demand immediate independence.]

[The nationalists want to negotiate an early unification agreement with Somalia, the Italian-administered trust territory which is to become independent on 1 July. This will heighten the tensions between Ethiopia and the Somali tribesmen. Addis Ababa is sensitive over Somali claims to Ethiopia's largely Somali-inhabited eastern province of Ogaden and probably will again accuse London of conspiring with Somalis to establish a "Greater Somali" state in the Commonwealth.]

[Last February, Addis Ababa charged that London's announced plan to introduce political reforms in the protectorate had stimulated nationalist sentiment among ethnic Somalis throughout eastern Africa--including Somalia, British and French Somaliland, northern Kenya, and Ethiopia's Ogaden Province. The charge was repeated following the formation last August of the Pan-Somali Nationalist Movement, which seeks to achieve unity of all Somali territories.]

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The National Elections in Ceylon

Ceylon's national elections on 19 March offer little prospect of a solution to the island's political problems. It is unlikely that any one party can win a majority and form a stable government. About 900 candidates representing 20 parties, only six of which are well established, are contesting 151 parliamentary seats.

There is neither a strong incumbent party nor a dramatic new political movement to catch popular imagination as there was in 1956. The outcome therefore will be influenced heavily by the popularity of individual candidates, regardless of party affiliation in some cases, and the prospects are for a widely split vote.

The moderate parties probably will obtain more votes than the leftists, in view of popular reaction against the political instability and economic decline brought on by the former government. The moderate United National party (UNP), which ruled from 1947 to 1956, is generally favored to win a plurality of seats. To do so, however, the party will have to maintain its lead in campaign activity to overcome the effects of its overwhelming defeat in 1956 and the multiplicity of candidates, which will be a greater drawback for the moderates than for the leftists.

With a near-majority, the UNP probably could attract enough additional members of Parliament into its ranks to form a relatively stable government. Should its plurality be too small for this solution, the resulting coalition government probably would be nearly as weak as its predecessor. [REDACTED]

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